

the hands of terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

If we want to address the future security and stability of the Middle East, the U.S. must work to curb extremism and violent political activism nurtured by the Iranian government. The U.S. and the international community must come together behind a united front and stand with unwavering strength against the Iran's state-sponsored terrorist organizations and activities.

Here at home, it is now more important than ever that we realize that our own safety and security depends on the destruction of terrorism in the Middle East. This isn't just a Middle East problem—the attacks in London, Madrid, Bali, and now India show us that this is world terror. And, as we saw first hand on 9/11, America is not immune to terrorists who seek to destroy freedom and democracy.

Although the conflict in the Middle East can seem distant and unrelated to our daily lives, it is vitally important that we remember our past, present and future is intrinsically linked with this region. As the situation continues to unfold over the next days and weeks, let our thoughts and prayers be for a true and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for H. Res. 921 to show solidarity with Israel in their quest for security and peace, and to show our commitment to defeating terrorism around the globe.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2240

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 921.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS). In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ACTION IS OVERDUE ON DRUG PRICING REFORM

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Recently, the United States Senate voted 68-32 to adopt an amendment that would stop the government from seizing safe, effective, affordable medicine imported from Canada. The House passed a responsible bipartisan prescription drug importation bill 3 years ago this month. I was pleased to lead the House Democrats in support of that bill.

We were not able to get it sent to the President's desk for only one reason: Senate Majority Leader FRIST never brought it to the Senate floor. His own Republican Caucus never demanded a vote. They never stood up. They never

demand action to break the drug industry stranglehold on the American market. They never demanded an end to the multibillion-dollar annual tax of skyrocketing drug prices it imposed on American business, and it imposed on American families.

At long last, the other body has begun to act. That vote should be the start, not the end, of this effort. I challenge the Republican leadership in both Chambers to give us an open debate, an honest vote on comprehensive drug importation legislation, before the anniversary of the House bill's passage 3 years ago. Three years is long enough to wait for independence from the drug industry.

ENERGY INDUSTRY OCCUPANCY PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Energy Industry Occupancy Protection Act of 2006. Tomorrow in the House Judiciary Committee we will hold a hearing. We will have the opportunity to listen to a victim, victims who have been forgotten, victims who were engaged in America's warfare protecting America in the 1940s and 1950s, when they worked around nuclear radioactive material, and were not told by the contractors that they, in fact, were subjecting themselves to radioactive impact.

These families, these individuals, some of whom lost their lives, were never compensated. I know America can do better. Tomorrow in front of our committee, the Judiciary Committee, Immigration Claims Committee, we will have an opportunity to lay the record to establish that this government must respond to those brave Americans who stood on the front lines, providing the resources for our warriors in World War II and the Korean War, and yet were never compensated for their illness.

I do hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation, pushing it quickly through the committee, through the committee, and ensuring that Americans are protected against this devastating impact of working on behalf of Americans and fighting on the front lines by engaging and providing nuclear materials for the wars that we were engaged in.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OMAN TRADE DEAL COMPROMISES SECURITY OF U.S. PORTS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to go out of place and replace Congressman MILLER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Only a couple of weeks ago, during the same week when the Senate rejected an increase in the minimum wage, meaning that for 10 years there has not been a minimum wage increase in this country, but there have been six congressional pay raises, that same week the United States Senate voted to approve a free trade agreement with Oman.

This agreement compromises port security, just what the Bush administration had been prepared to do earlier this year, with the Dubai Ports World case. You see, the Oman FTA, Free Trade Agreement, includes provisions allowing companies from Oman to take over land, so-called land-side port operations, operating the piers, loading and unloading cargo, exactly the sorts of things Dubai Ports World had sought to do.

In the case of Dubai Ports World, concerned legislators on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, demanded that the Bush administration block the deal, and ultimately the foreign company gave up. But the Oman Free Trade Agreement would weaken our ability to protect port security and actually allow it to back-door its way into this country.

If we tried to block an Omani company's control over critical port infrastructure, the Omani Government could sue us, could sue the United States for violating this trade agreement, and that case would not be heard by a U.S. court with judges confirmed by U.S.-elected officials and charged with balancing the needs of trade and the imperative security under U.S. law. It would instead be heard by an unelected, unaccountable, international tribunal whose mission is trade promotion, not security enhancement.

If we lost, the foreign ports takeover would go ahead, despite our security

concerns, or we would face retaliatory sanctions. Even if we won, we would have spent, as a country, as taxpayers, millions and millions of taxpayer dollars, fighting in a foreign court for the right to protect our most basic security.

Worse yet, the agreement opens U.S. security decisions to suits not only from the Omani Government, but also from companies located in Oman. That means not only actually companies actually headquartered in Oman, but any companies with a branch in Oman.

For example, an Iranian company, we heard a lot about Iran tonight, an Iranian company with a branch in Oman might be able to sue us if we continue to block its efforts in a U.S. port. There is reason to be concerned about the Irani-Oman connection. Iran recently spent \$45 million to expand a port with the objective of increasing trade with Iran.

We need to reject not only the Oman FTA, but the whole fundamentally flawed trade model, a model that puts the economic interests of multinational corporations ahead of the security interests of the American people. Imagine again what can happen. Dubai Ports World locates an office in Oman. We pass this trade agreement.

Oman then allows, and under the free trade agreement, Dubai Ports World could actually run a port in Baltimore, a port in New York. That company then, running the Baltimore port, allows cargo into the Baltimore port.

That cargo comes across I-70 to Belaire and Zanesville and Columbus and Springfield and Dayton, or it comes down the Saint Lawrence Seaway through Ashtabula and Cleveland and Toledo, or it comes down the Ohio River to Steubenville and Marietta and Gallipolis and Cincinnati.

□ 2250

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 4812, to ensure that trade agreements do not undermine homeland security. My bill requires security reviews of trade agreements as soon as negotiations begin, then another round of reviews when the agreement's concluded.

Unlike the Dubai Ports World and the Oman Free Trade Agreement, this bill keeps Congress in the loop all the way. It creates a special security watchdog commission to make sure Congress has an independent voice on security issues. It is absurd that the Federal Government makes American citizens take off our shoes at the airport but refuses to conduct security reviews of multibillion-dollar trade deals.

We need to take our heads out of the sand. We need to reject the Oman Free Trade Agreement and its dangerous ports language. We need to insist on a responsible policy to ensure that trade agreements strengthen, not weaken, our national security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS). Under a previous order of

the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of Mr. EMANUEL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this week people all around the world are hearing about the small island of Cyprus. Today, Cyprus is serving as a safe haven for thousands of Americans and others who have fled the violence of the Middle East.

I would suspect, however, that most people around the world do not know that tomorrow Cyprus marks the 32nd anniversary of a very dark day in its history. That is the day Turkey illegally invaded the northern third of Cyprus. At a time when Cypriots are inviting thousands of people to their island as a way to leave behind violence, the actual island itself remains divided.

I commend the Cypriot government for its effective work in coordinating evacuation efforts with both the U.S. Government and the world community. According to a State Department official, "Cypriots have met every helicopter and ship with sandwiches and water and juice. They're just being fantastic." And this is nothing new, Madam Speaker. Cyprus has always been a strong ally of the United States.

I hope Cyprus' actions of the last week will help the Bush administration reevaluate its relationship with the island Nation, a relationship that has cooled over the last couple of years.

Until 2 years ago, both Democratic and Republican administrations consistently condemned the Turkish government for this illegal occupation and pressured the government to come to the negotiating table in an attempt to finally reunite Cyprus.

Past administrations understood that the invading Nation of Turkey was to blame for the division and should, therefore, be punished accordingly. As a result, past administrations specifically forbid trade with the illegal government of the occupied north. Our government also prohibited directly flights into the occupied north. As long as Turkey continued its intransigence and refused to leave Cy-

prus, U.S. administrations correctly believed that they should not be rewarded.

While this has been consistent U.S. policy, I am deeply concerned that over the past 2 years we have witnessed a blatant shift in Cyprus policy from the Bush administration, specifically from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The U.S. State Department and Secretary Rice seem much more interested in rewarding those who illegally occupied the northern third of the Nation back in 1974 than actually reunifying the island.

Over the past year, our State Department decided to allow Americans to fly into the occupied north, in direct violation of international law and the law of the Republic of Cyprus. Last year, I joined many of my colleagues from the Congressional Hellenic Caucus in sending a letter expressing our deep concern regarding the legality of these flights.

In response, the State Department said that it was encouraging the elimination of unnecessary restrictions and barriers that isolate and impede the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Unfortunately, it did not end there. The State Department agreed to resume trade with the occupied north, a direct violation of both domestic law in law Cyprus and international law.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned that the State Department's new policy towards the government and the people of the occupied north will only delay reunification of the entire island. If the U.S. allows direct trade through routes in the north, what incentive do the illegal occupiers have to make any concessions?

It is as if the State Department had completely forgotten who is responsible for the division of Cyprus in the first place. I have repeatedly encouraged Secretary Rice to take a historic look at the Cyprus problem over the past 32 years.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the Bush administration remembers how helpful both the Cyprus government and the people of Cyprus have been over the last week. It is time that we return to the fair-minded policies enacted prior to 2005 so that we can finally bring about real negotiations that will finally reunify Cyprus. The 32 years of occupation must come to an end.

And so as we recognize this dark anniversary, I hope that the Bush administration rewards the actions of Cyprus over this last week by returning to the policies of the past. They were the right policies then, and they would be the best policies now to foster an environment to end this division of Cyprus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear